



DARK LORDS  
OF THE SITH  
2 OF 6

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# STAR WARS® TALES OF THE JEDI™

## Dark Lords of the Sith



**Veitch • Anderson • Gossett • Ensign**

# STAR WARS<sup>®</sup> TALES OF THE JEDI<sup>™</sup>

## Dark Lords of the Sith

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# **The Quest for the Sith**

On three widely separated worlds, events are unfolding which will severely test the great company of the Jedi Knights and shake the Galactic Republic to its foundations.

On Dantooine, a proud Jedi named Exar Kun sets out to uncover forbidden dark-side knowledge and to learn the secret histories of the fallen Jedi who became Dark Lords of the Sith.

On Empress Teta, young aristocrats Satal Keto and Aleema introduce their friends to the lore of the ancient Sith magicians. Calling themselves the Krath, Satal and Aleema grow progressively possessed by evil, until finally they murder their royal parents and take political control of the seven Tetan worlds.

On the planet Onderon, the great Jedi warrior Master Arca assigns Ulic Qel-Droma and Nomi Sunrider to lead the joint Jedi and Republic task force to root out the Krath and restore peace to the Empress Teta system.

Meanwhile, in the test of his lightsaber skills, Exar Kun humiliates his master, Vodo-Siosk Baas. As Kun prepares to abandon his teacher and leave Dantooine forever, Master Vodo's words to his apprentice hold great portent for the future of the Galaxy:

"Exar Kun, you are my most formidable student. But I sense something in you that frightens me... something hidden even from yourself... a place that remains unseen because no light escapes from that region of your heart."



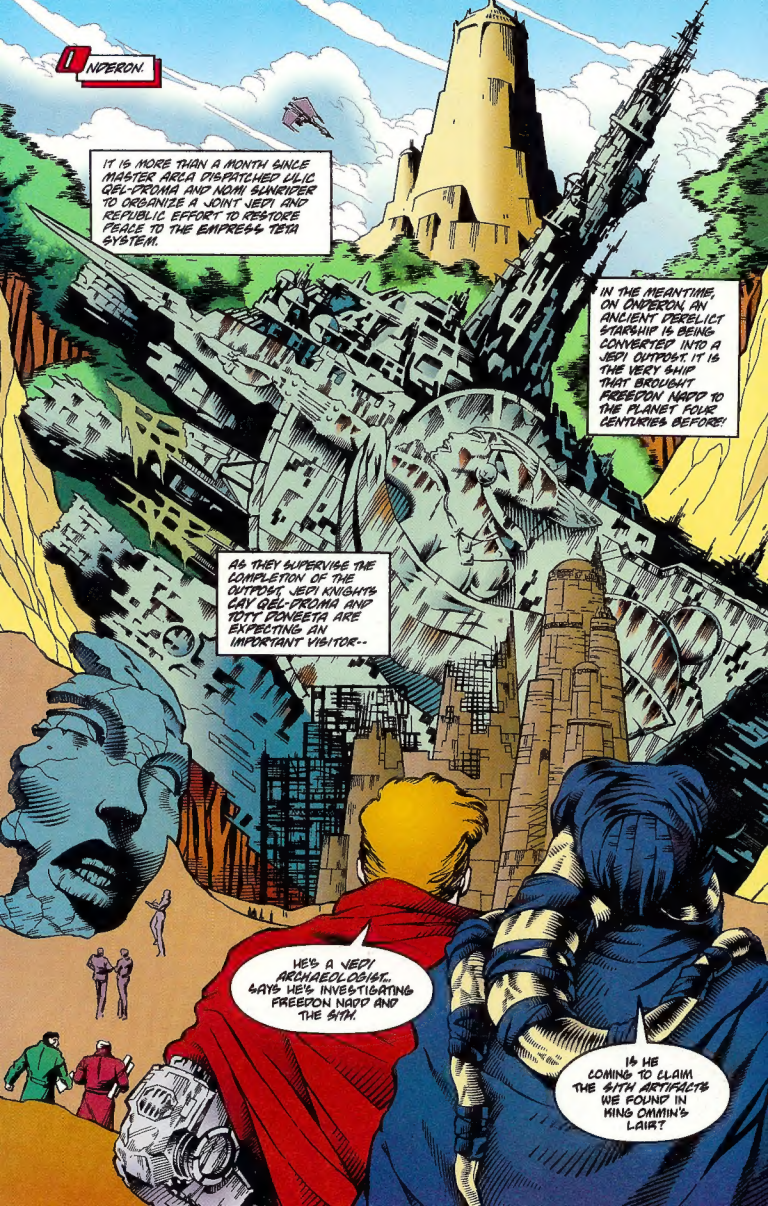
IT IS MORE THAN A MONTH SINCE MASTER ARCA DISPATCHED ULIC GEL-PROMMA AND NAMI SUNKIDER TO ORGANIZE A JOINT JEDI AND REPUBLIC EFFORT TO RESTORE PEACE TO THE EMPRESS TETA SYSTEM.

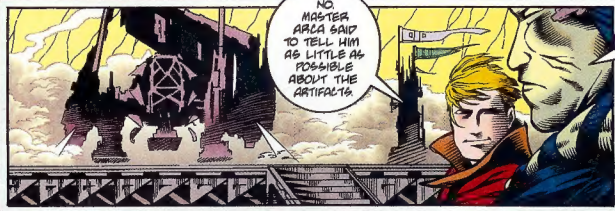
IN THE MEANTIME, ON ONDERON, AN ANCIENT DERELICT STARSHIP IS BEING CONVERTED INTO A JEDI OUTPOST. IT IS THE VERY SHIP THAT BROUGHT FREEDON NAADO TO THE PLANET FOUR CENTURIES BEFORE!

AS THEY SUPERVISE THE COMPLETION OF THE OUTPOST, JEDI KNIGHTS ULC GEL-PROMMA AND TOTT DANCEETHA ARE EXPECTING AN IMPORTANT VISITOR...

HE'S A JEDI ARCHAEOLOGIST. SAYS HE'S INVESTIGATING FREEDON NAADO AND THE SITH.

IS HE COMING TO CLAIM THE SITH ARTIFACTS WE FOUND IN KING OAMIN'S LAIR?

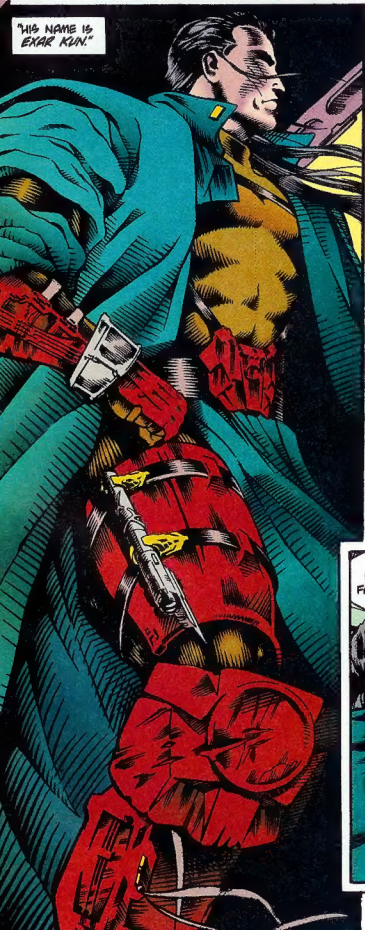




NO, MASTER ARCA SAID TO TELL HIM AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE ARTIFACTS.

WHO IS THIS JEDI?

"HIS NAME IS EXAR KUN."



MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU. I AM KUN, JEDI ARCHAEOLOGIST.

MASTER YODA-SHOK BAAS WAS MY TEACHER.

THE FORCE BE WITH YOU, JEDI.

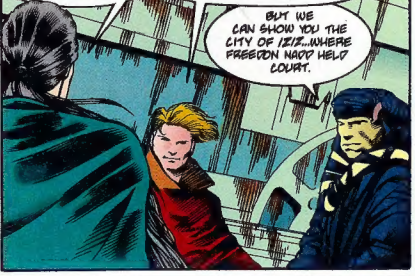
I AM CAY GEL-DROMA AND THIS IS MY JEDI BROTHER, TOTI DONEETA.

I AM TOLD THAT YOU HAVE RECOVERED A TROVE OF SITH ARTIFACTS.

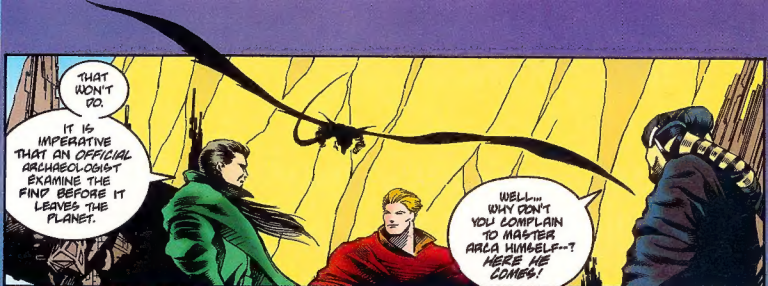
IS IT TRUE THEY BELONGED TO THE FALLEN JEDI FREEDON NAQT?

THIS IS SO... OUR MASTER ARCA OF ARMANIA HAS ORDERED THEM SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO OSSUS.

BUT WE CAN SHOW YOU THE CITY OF IZIX...WHERE FREEDON NAQT HELD COURT.



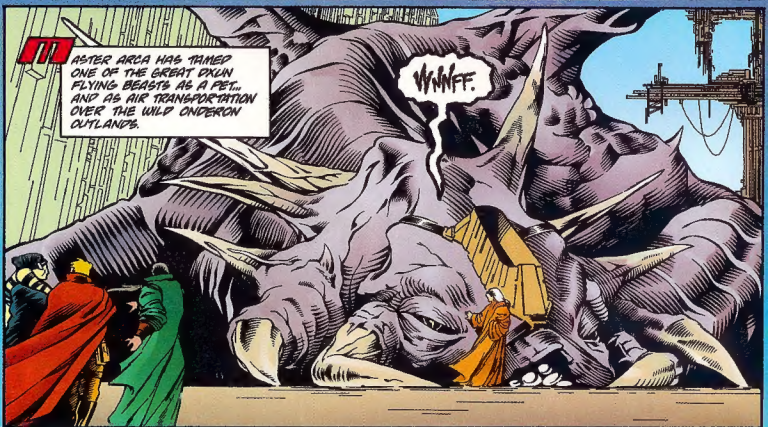




THAT  
WON'T  
DO.

IT IS  
IMPERATIVE  
THAT AN OFFICIAL  
ARCHAEOLOGIST  
EXAMINE THE  
FIND BEFORE IT  
LEAVES THE  
PLANET.

WELL...  
WHY DON'T  
YOU COMPLAIN  
TO MASTER  
ARCA HIMSELF--?  
HERE HE  
COMES!



MASTER ARCA HAS TAMED  
ONE OF THE GREAT OXUN  
FLYING BEASTS AS A PET...  
AND AS AIR TRANSPORTATION  
OVER THE WILD ONDERON  
OUTLANDS.

WNNFF.



MASTER ARCA...  
THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.  
I AM EXAR MUN AND I HAVE  
COME TO ONDERON  
TO--

I  
KNOW WHY  
YOU'RE  
HERE.

I'M  
AFRAID  
WE CANNOT  
HELP  
YOU.



YOU  
MUST HAVE  
SPOKEN WITH  
MY MASTER,  
YODA-SIOBH  
BAAS...

HE IS  
UNAWARE THAT  
I AM NOW CONNECTED TO  
THE ACADEMY OF JEDI  
ARCHAEOLOGY. HE THINKS...

NO...I  
HAVEN'T SPOKEN  
WITH YOUR  
MASTER.

EVERYTHING I  
KNOW ABOUT YOU I HAVE  
LEARNED THROUGH  
THE FORCE.

I KNOW THAT  
YOUR FASCINATION WITH DARK-  
SIDE THINGS HAS ALREADY LED  
YOU INTO A LIE...

YOU ARE NO  
ARCHAEOLOGIST.

I THINK  
YOU OUGHT  
TO QUESTION YOUR  
FORCE PERCEPTIONS,  
MASTER  
ARCA.

AGE  
SOMETIMES PLAYS  
TRICKS ON THE  
MIND.

YES, AND  
SOMETIMES AS ONE  
GROWS OLDER, THE  
MIND SEES MORE  
CLEARLY.

YOU  
ARE NOT  
WELCOME ON  
ONDERON,  
EXAR  
KUN.

NONSENSE. I  
AM A JEDI KNIGHT AND  
AM FREE TO COME AND GO  
AS I PLEASE.

I WILL  
BEGIN MY RESEARCH  
WITHOUT YOUR  
HELP.

HE'S  
HEADING HIS  
SHIP FOR  
IZIZ.

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND,  
MASTER ARCA...WHY ISN'T  
EXAR KUN WELCOME  
HERE?

WHAT HE SAYS  
IS TRUE...A JEDI IS FREE  
TO COME AND GO AS HE PLEASES...  
AND TO FOLLOW THE PATH  
HE HAS CHOSEN.

...BUT I HAVE  
OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND  
JUST NOW.

I'VE BEEN INFORMED  
THAT THE JOINT JEDI AND REPUBLIC  
FORCES WILL SOON REACH THE  
TETA SYSTEM.

ULIC AND NOMI  
ARE ABOUT TO FACE A VERY  
GREAT TEST...





THE EMPRESS  
TETRA SYSTEM.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE  
OF SITH TEACHINGS,  
REBELLIOUS YOUNG  
ARISTOCRATS SATHAL  
KETO AND HIS COUSIN  
ALEEMA HAVE  
MURDERED THEIR  
PARENTS AND STAGED  
A POLITICAL COUP.

CALLING THEMSELVES  
"THE KRATH," AND USING  
PRIMITIVE DARK-SIDE  
MAGIC, THEY HAVE  
INSTITUTED A REIGN OF  
TERROR AMONG THE  
SEVEN TETAN WORLDS.

AS MASTER ARCA SPEAKS, THE KRATH ARE  
MOVING AN ANCIENT MILITARY COMMAND  
STATION INTO POSITION OVER KORO'S  
MAJOR, THE LAST PLANET TO HOLD OUT  
AGAINST THE COUP--

THE ASSAULT SHIPS OF THE  
KRATH ARE UNIQUE TO THE  
TETAN SYSTEM--FLYING  
DECKS CRAMMED WITH  
SHOCKTROOPS WEARING  
CEREMONIAL ARMOR OF  
AN EARLIER TIME.



1

AFTER CENTURIES OF PEACE, THE TETAN WORLDS HAVE FELT NO NEED TO ADOPT THE MODERN WEAPONS THAT ARE CHANGING THE FACE OF WAR THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY--

--AND THE PROUD AND FIERCE WARRIOR CLASSES OF THE SEVEN WORLDS HAVE CONTINUED TO TRAIN WITH THE WEAPONS OF A GLORIOUS EARLIER DAY.



THE TETAN WARRIORS BOAST  
THAT THEIR SWORDS ARE A  
MATCH FOR ANY HAND-  
WEAPON IN THE GALAXY.


NOW THE KRATH RULER'S SATAL KETO AND  
ALEEMA BRING AN EVEN OLDER AND MORE  
SINISTER WEAPON TO THEIR REIGN OF  
TERROR--SORCERY AND MYSTICAL POWER!

ALEEMA HAS BECOME  
PROFICIENT IN USING  
THE DARK SIDE OF THE  
FORCE TO ALTER HER  
OPPONENTS' PERCEP-  
TIONS OF REALITY!

CERTAINLY  
AGAINST EACH  
OTHER, NEITHER  
SIDE HAS A  
CLEAR  
ADVANTAGE--

TELL ME,  
SATAL--WHAT  
WARRIOR CAN STAND  
WHO BELIEVES HIS  
SWORD HAS  
CEASED TO BE  
A SWORD?





EVEN FROM THE COMMAND STATION, HIGH ABOVE THE PLANET, ALEEMA'S SITH MAGIC DOES ITS WORK!

KOROS MAJOR IS THE LAST PLANET IN THE SYSTEM TO RESIST OUR WILL, ALEEMA.

THIS IS A TEST OF OUR POWER--

--IF THE PROUD SOLDIERS OF KOROS MAJOR CAN BE CONFOUNDED BY SITH MAGIC, CERTAINLY WE CAN TAKE ON THE VES! THEMSELVES!

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, SATAL.

CHECK THE SCANNERS-- I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET YOUR CHANCE!



THE JOINT PEACE KEEPING  
FLEET OF THE GALACTIC  
REPUBLIC AND THE JEDI  
KNIGHTS EMERGES  
FROM HYPERSPACE.

ITS GOAL IS TO  
PROTECT KOROS MAJOR,  
THE ONLY TETAN  
WORLD STILL RESISTING  
THE KRATH COUP--



ON BOARD THE REPUBLIC COMMAND SHIP  
RELIANCE, CAPTAIN VANIKUS WITH  
MISSION OVERSEER ULIC DEL-DROMA--


LOOKS  
LIKE WE'RE  
TOO LATE TO  
SAVE KOROS  
MAJOR,  
ULIC--

PERHAPS,  
CAPTAIN VANIKUS,  
TRANSMIT YOUR  
CEASE FIRE  
ORDER...

THEN  
WE'LL SEE  
IF THE NEW TETAN  
LEADERS HAVE ANY  
RESPECT FOR  
GALACTIC  
LAW!







**T**HESE LEGENDARY CREATURES ARE SAID TO HAVE ONCE ROAMED BETWEEN THE STARS, PREYING ON GALACTIC SPACE TRAFFIC!




SPACE GRAZERS!  
I THOUGHT  
THEY WERE  
EXTINCT!

THEY'LL  
DESTROY THE  
FLEET!

WAIT...!  
WHAT WERE  
SEEING ARE  
ILLUSIONS.

WITH HER GROWING POWER  
OF MEDITATION, NAMI  
SUNRIDER SENSES THE DARK  
ENERGIES BEHIND THE  
ATTACK--



IF EACH  
OF YOU WILL LISTEN  
TO THE FORCE...YOU'LL  
SENSE THE REAL  
ATTACK--

WE ARE  
BEING ASSAULTED  
WITH THE POWER OF THE  
DARK SIDE OF THE  
FORCE!



ONDERON.

EXAR KUN, ON HIS OWN IN THE GREAT CITY OF IZU, WANDERS THE TEEMING STREETS, SEEKING EVIDENCE OF ONDERON'S OMINOUS PAST.

KEEPING PART OF HIS ATTENTION FOCUSED IN THE FORCE, HE FINDS HIMSELF INEXPLICABLY DRAWN TO A PLAZA WHERE TWO STREET PHILOSOPHERS NAMED NEBO AND PARK HARANGUE A CROWD...

HEAR ME PEOPLE OF IZU!

FREEDON NADD GAVE THIS CITY STRENGTH AGAINST THE WILD MEN AND THEIR BEASTS...

--AS LONG AS KING OMMIN AND QUEEN AMANDA CARRIED ON THAT NOBLE AULE...THE GREAT POWER OF FREEDON NADD REMAINED WITH US!

NOW THAT POWER HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM US BY THE HATEFUL JEDI KNIGHTS.

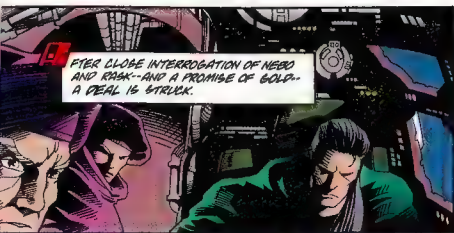
THESE NEEDLESS HAVE DESTROYED THE ANCIENT ONDERON SOCIETY!

YOU'RE CRAZY, NEBO-- JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER!

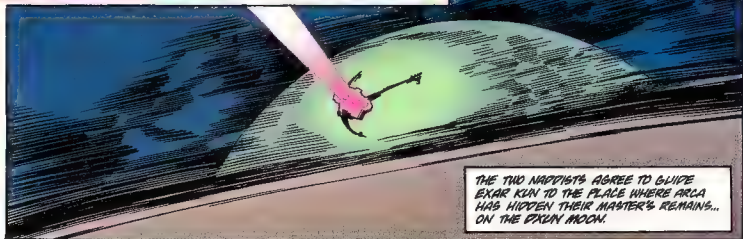
PARK SIPSER, YOUR DAY IS FINISHED!







AFTER CLOSE INTERROGATION OF NEEDO AND RASK--AND A PROMISE OF GOLD-- A DEAL IS STRUCK.



THE TWO NADDISTS AGREE TO GUIDE EXAR KUN TO THE PLACE WHERE ARCA HAS HIDDEN THEIR MASTER'S REMAINS... ON THE PXUN MOON.



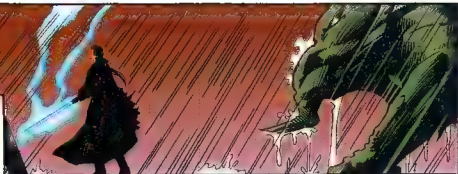
IT IS THERE, IN THE MIDST OF THE UNTAMED LUNAR WILDERNESS, THAT MASTER ARCA BUILT A TOMB TO LAST A MILLION YEARS...



WAIT HERE... IT WILL BE SAFER.

IF THIS IS IN TRUTH THE TOMB OF FABEON NADD, YOU WILL BE WELL REWARDED.

**S**INCE PRIMEVAL TIMES,  
THE DXUN MOON HAS  
BELONGED TO  
MONSTROUS CREATURES,  
SAVAGE DEVOURERS  
OF ANY WHO DARE TO  
INTRUDE ON THEIR  
LUNAR PRESERVE.



AH, YES...  
THEY TOLD ME  
ABOUT YOU!



KKRYAAAA!



OBVIOUSLY  
MASTER ARCA  
THOUGHT THESE  
DXUN BEASTS WOULD  
PROVIDE NATURAL  
GUARDIANS FOR  
THE TOMB!

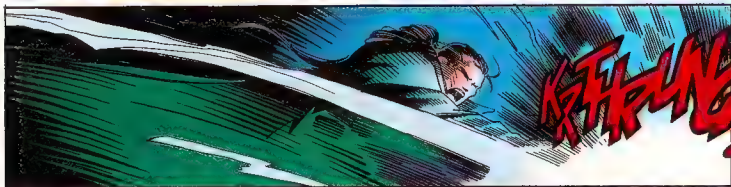


HE  
THOUGHT  
WRONG.



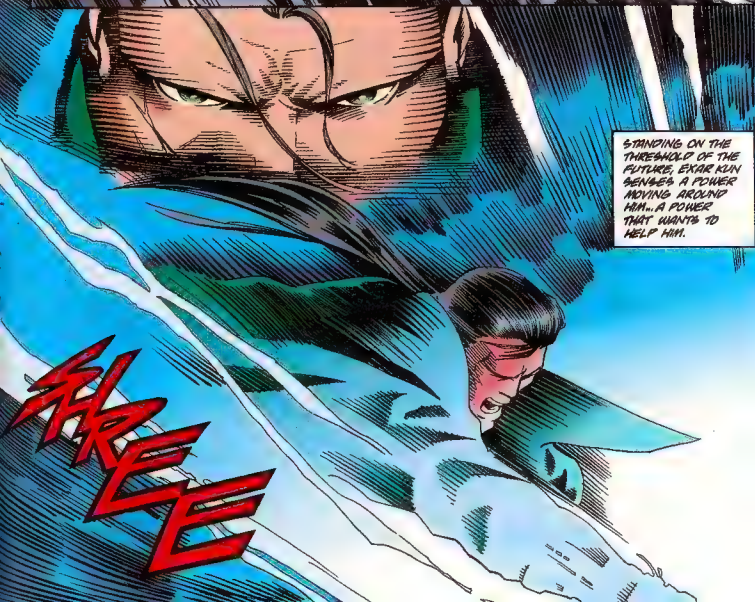
UT THERE IS A  
SECOND WALL  
OF PROTECTION  
AROUND THE  
DARK SIDERS'  
REMAINS--THE  
TOMB IS  
CONSTRUCTED OF  
MANDALORIAN  
IRON!

MY  
MASTER TAUGHT  
ME THAT A LIGHTSABER  
CAN CUT THROUGH  
ANYTHING...

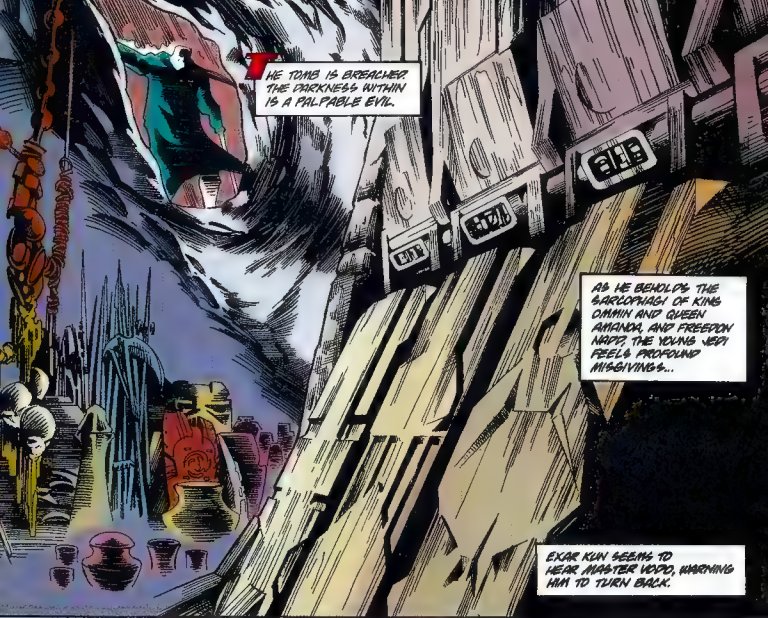


BARELY  
SCRATCHED! WHAT  
IS THIS MAUSOLEUM  
MADE OF?

AS EXAR KUN ADJUSTS  
HIS LIGHTSABER TO ITS  
HIGHEST INTENSITY, HE  
FEELS A SUDDEN  
CHILL...



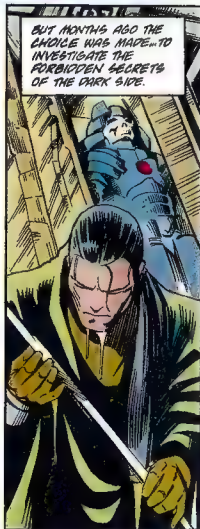
STANDING ON THE  
THRESHOLD OF THE  
FUTURE, EXAR KUN  
SENSES A POWER  
MOVING AROUND  
HIM...A POWER  
THAT WANTS TO  
HELP HIM.



**T**HE TOMB IS BREACHED.  
THE DARKNESS WITHIN  
IS A PALPABLE EVIL.

AS HE BEHOLDS THE  
SARCOPHAGI OF KING  
OMMIN AND QUEEN  
AMANDA, AND FREEDON  
NADD, THE YOUNG JEDI  
FEELS PROFOUND  
MISSINGS...

EXAR KUN SEEMS TO  
HEAR MASTER WOP, WARNING  
HIM TO TURN BACK.



BUT MONTHS AGO THE  
CHOICE WAS MADE... TO  
INVESTIGATE THE  
FORBIDDEN SECRETS  
OF THE DARK SIDE.



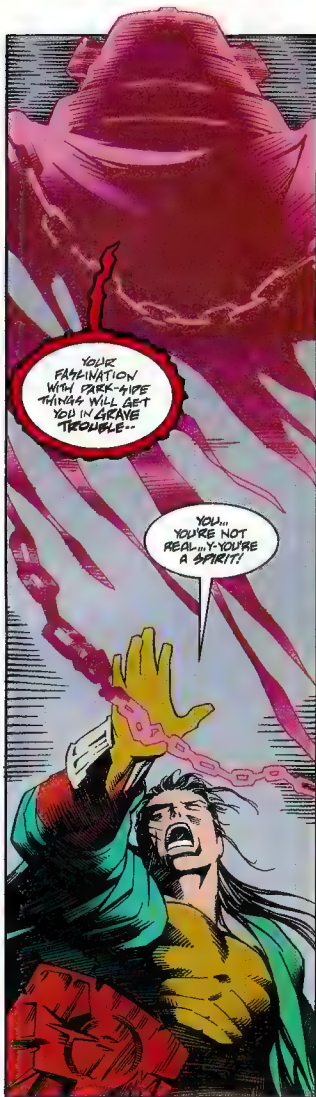
FREEDON  
NADD!



FOOLISH YOUNG  
JEDI!

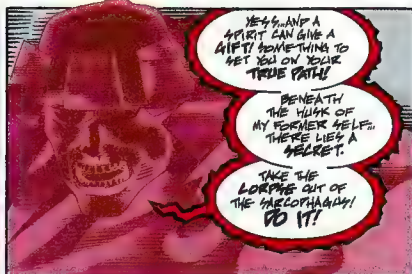
WHAT KIND OF  
MADMAN ARE YOU WHO  
DARES TO VIOLATE MY FINAL  
RESTING PLACE?





YOUR  
FASCINATION  
WITH PARK-SIDE  
THINGS WILL GET  
YOU IN GRAVE  
TROUBLE...

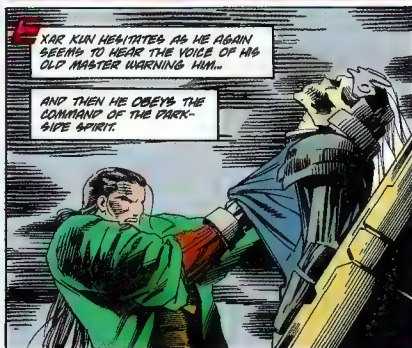
YOU...  
YOU'RE NOT  
REAL...Y-YOU'RE  
A SPIRIT!



YES...AND A  
SPIRIT CAN GIVE A  
GIFT! SOMETHING TO  
SET YOU ON YOUR  
TRUE PATH!

BENEATH  
THE HULK OF  
MY FORMER SELF...  
THERE LIES A  
SECRET.

TAKE THE  
LORDS OUT OF  
THE SACROPHAGY!  
DO IT!



**E**XAR KUN HESITATES AS HE AGAIN  
SEEMS TO HEAR THE VOICE OF HIS  
OLD MASTER WARNING HIM...

AND THEN HE OBEYS THE  
COMMAND OF THE PARK-  
SIDE SPIRIT.

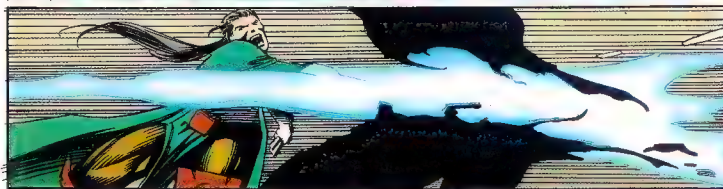
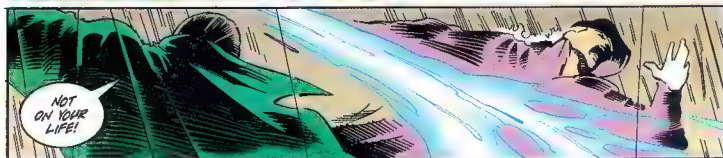


THERE!  
TAKE THESE  
SCROLLS!

WRITTEN  
BY THE HAND  
OF THE PARK  
LORD WHO  
WAS MY  
MASTER!

MY LORD'S  
WORDS WILL  
GUIDE YOU...TO  
THE LAST  
HOME OF THE  
4TH...

THERE  
YOU AND  
I WILL MEET  
AGAIN...TO  
BEGIN THE  
AWAKENING.







THE EMPRESS  
TETH SYSTEM.

IN THEIR YOUTHFUL ARROGANCE,  
SATAL AND ALEEMA ASSUME THAT  
FEAR WILL DRIVE OFF THE JEDI.

BUT REALIZING THE ATTACK OF THE  
SPACE GRAZERS IS A DARK-SIDE  
HALLUCINATION, THE JOINT FORCES OF  
THE REPUBLIC MOVE IN TO STORM THE  
KRATH COMMAND STATION--

ULIC--THE  
DARK-SIDE ENERGY IS  
INTENSIFYING...PREPARE  
FOR ANYTHING.

YES...WE  
ALL FEEL IT. IT IS  
CONCENTRATED IN THE  
COMMAND  
STATION.

WHOEVER'S IN  
THERE HAS TO BE TAKEN  
INTO CUSTODY AS SOON  
AS POSSIBLE!



THEY'RE  
IGNORING MY  
LOVELY  
MIND-FORMS,  
SATAL.

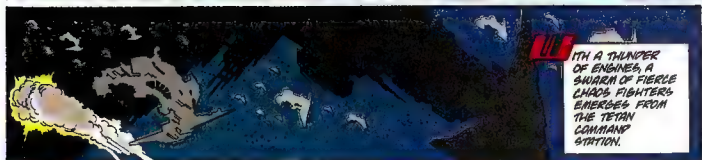
WHAT  
ARE WE  
GOING TO  
DO?

SOMETHING  
THEY DON'T EXPECT,  
OF COURSE.

ALL I  
NEED IS A LITTLE  
MORE OF YOUR  
MAGIC--!

CAPTAIN, ARE  
THE CHAOS TEAM'S  
READY?

READY,  
LORD KETO.



WITH A THUNDER  
OF ENGINES, A  
SWARM OF FIERCE  
CHAOS FIGHTERS  
EMERGES FROM  
THE TETAN  
COMBAT STATION.



REPUBLIC FLEET CAPTAIN  
VANICUS IS ITCHING FOR  
A GOOD FIGHT!

BATTLE STATIONS! FIRE  
ON MY SIGNAL!

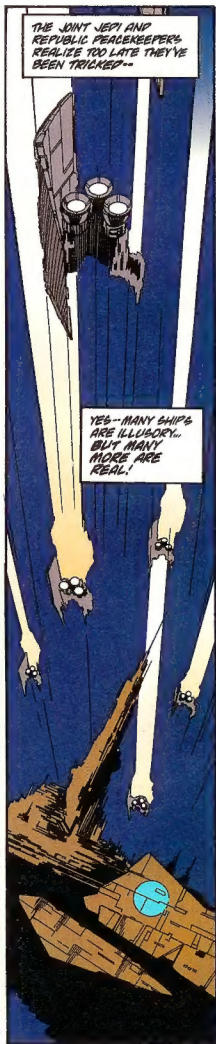
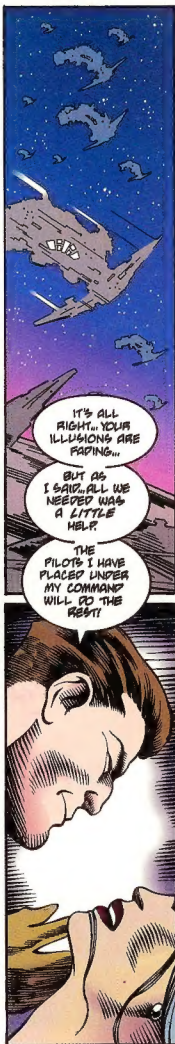
WAIT--THE  
SHIPS AREN'T  
REAL! IT'S  
ANOTHER  
ILLUSION!



I'M TOUCHING  
THE MIND OF A WOMAN...  
SHE'S CREATING IMAGES  
OF ATTACK  
SHIPS!

I'VE GOT  
HER!





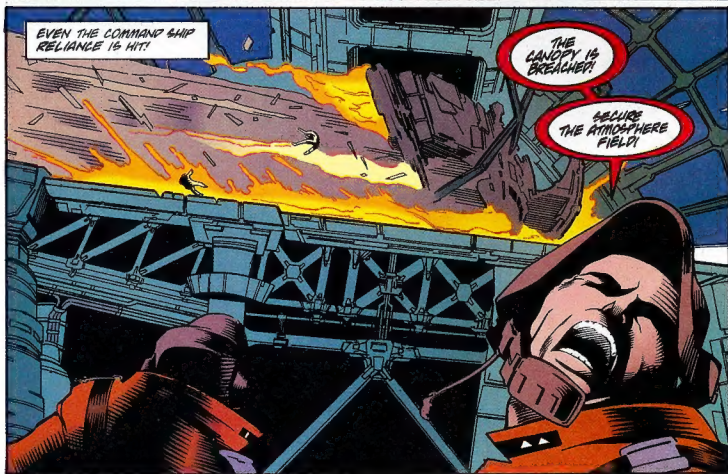


SHIELDS  
UP!

THE  
CHAOS SHIPS  
ARE DIVING  
STRAIGHT AT  
US!



**S**ATAL KETO'S HYPNOTIC WILL  
HAS TURNED THE KRATH  
CHAOS TEAMS INTO  
LIVING WEAPONS--

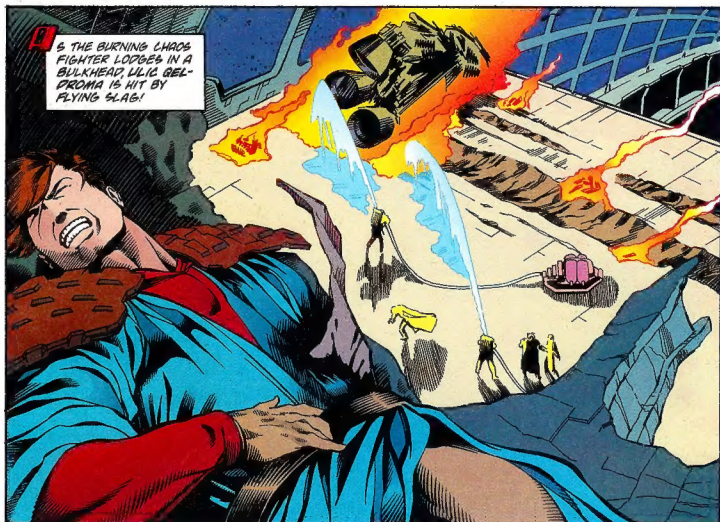


EVEN THE COMMAND SHIP  
RELIANCE IS HIT!

THE  
CANOPY IS  
BREACHED!

SECURE  
THE ATMOSPHERE  
FIELD!





**8** IS THE BURNING LHAOS FIGHTER LODGED IN A BULKHEAD, ULIC GEL-PROMA IS HIT BY FLYING SLAG!

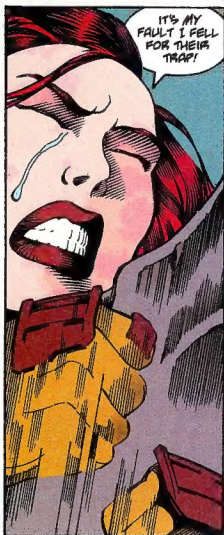


ULIC... HOLD TO THE LIGHT!

I'M GOING TO PULL OUT THIS SHRAPNEL.

I...I DON'T THINK IT HIT ANY VITAL ORGANS.

Umm... AAHH!



IT'S MY FAULT I FELL FOR THEIR TRAP!



I'M ORDERING A RETREAT. THE SHIP'S OKAY...WE CAN MAKE IT BACK TO BASE.

WE'VE GOT TO RETHINK THIS WHOLE OPERATION.

ULIC... IF YOU HEAR ME... PUSH THE DARK POWER AWAY...

THIS WOUND WILL HEAL...IT HAS TO HEAL.



ANY LIGHT-YEARS AWAY, ABOARD HIS SHIP STARSTORM ONE, EXAR KUN USES AN ELECTRONIC TRANSLATOR TO EXAMINE THE ANCIENT SCROLLS GIVEN HIM BY THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM NAZZ.

ONCE THE DARK JEDI HAD DOMINATED THE SITH, THEY THREATENED TO SUBVERT THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE REPUBLIC.

THEIR POWER WAS GREATLY FEARED, AND THE SITH WERE MARKED FOR EXTERMINATION.

FASCINATING. NO WONDER MASTER VODO DIDN'T WANT TO TEACH ME ABOUT THE SITH.

"PERSECUTED FOR THEIR KNOWLEDGE... KNOWLEDGE THAT WAS FEARED BY LESSER MEN... THEY WANDERED FROM SYSTEM TO SYSTEM, LEAVING A TRAIL OF MYTHS AND LEGENDS...

"...AND THE WORLD KORRIBAN WAS TO BE THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE."

**NEXT ISSUE: DESCENT TO THE DARK SIDE!**